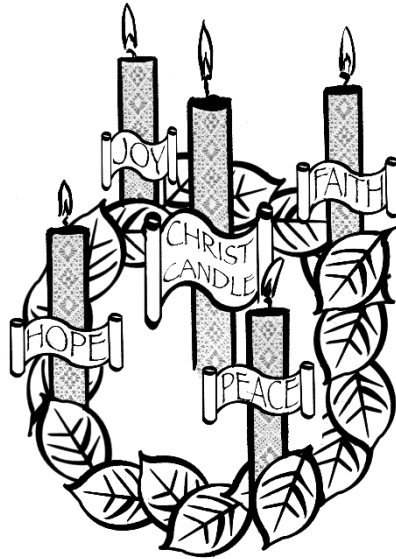




**St. Michael and All Angels
Amersham on the Hill**



**HOLY EUCHARIST
ADVENT**

A warm welcome to this service

This booklet is designed for use throughout the Advent season and includes guidance notes. Do please ask a "Welcomer" if you need any further help.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ's incarnation (coming among us in human flesh), and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The four Sundays of Advent carry themes of the Patriarchs, Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary but the characteristic note of Advent is expectation, and the fundamental Advent prayer remains "*Maranatha*" – "*Our Lord, come*" (1 Corinthians 16.22).

Church decorations are simple, and purple is the liturgical colour. The Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath began in Britain in the 19th century, the candles representing faith, hope, joy and peace, with the white candle, lit on Christmas Day, symbolising the birth of Jesus.

The Gathering

Introit

Processional Hymn

Please stand, if able.

The Greeting

All The Lord be with you
and also with you

Please sit.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Lighting the Advent Candle

In joyful expectation of Christ's coming among us, we pray:

Advent Sunday

This first candle represents the patriarchs – Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born.

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make his home among us.

All

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be King of our lives today.
Amen.**



2nd Sunday of Advent

This candle represents the prophets, giving us an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'.



God our Father,
you spoke to the prophets of old
of a Saviour who would bring peace.
You helped them to spread the joyful message
of his coming kingdom.

Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
to share with those around us
the good news of your power and love.

All

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people in trouble.
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas
and show all the world God's love.
Amen.**

3rd Sunday of Advent

Today the candle represents John the Baptist, who proclaimed the Saviour. The pink candle represents joy, as this Sunday is sometimes called 'Gaudete' Sunday, meaning 'rejoice'.



God our Father,
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age
a son called John.
He grew up strong in spirit,
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,
and baptised them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.
Help us, who have been baptised into Christ,
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.

All

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.**

4th Sunday in Advent

Today's candle represents the Virgin Mary, who bore Jesus in her womb in obedience to God's will.



God our Father,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
to share like her in your great work
of bringing to our world your love and healing.

All

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.
Amen.**

Prayer of Preparation

All

**Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
Send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces
to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness,
yet seeking the light.
To you we say, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'
Amen.**

Invitation to Confession

Deacon When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.
(cf 1 Corinthians 4.5)
Please remain seated or kneel.

Confession

We pause for confession.

All **Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

All sing **Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

President May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive *you your* sins
and make *you* holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

The priest gathers together, or collects, our prayers.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit.

(Readings and Psalm on Notice Sheet)

Old Testament Reading

All For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

New Testament Reading

All For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Advent Antiphons

Choir

Gospel Reading

If able, please stand and turn to face the Gospel.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life.

(cf John 8.12)

All The Lord be with you
and also with you

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is proclaimed.

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand, if able.

All We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.
**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

All God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;
**fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

All As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.
**Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

All One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;
**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

All For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.
**The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

(From the Athanasian Creed)

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel to pray.

From the 1st Sunday of Advent until 16th December:

All In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
we pray to Jesus.
Come to your Church as Lord and judge.
We pray for ...
Help us to live in the light of your coming
and give us a longing for your kingdom.
Maranatha:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations.
We pray for ...
Before you rulers will stand in silence.
Maranatha:

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.
We pray for ...
Break into our lives,
where we struggle with sickness and distress,
and set us free to serve you for ever.
Maranatha:

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.
We remember ...
Give us with all the faithful departed
a share in your victory over evil and death.
Maranatha:

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.
Lift us up to meet you,
that with [N and] all your saints and angels
we may live and reign with you in your new creation.
Maranatha:

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love.
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom
on earth as in heaven,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

From 17th December until Christmas Eve:

Our Lord says, 'Surely I am coming quickly'. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

O Wisdom, Breath of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation; come and make us friends of God.

All **Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus!**

O Lord of lords, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him your law on Sinai; come and save us with your mighty arm.

All **Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus!**

O Root of Jesse, standing as a signal to the nations, before you all kings are silent, to you the nations will do homage; come and save us, delay no longer.

All **Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus!**

O Key of David, when you open no one can close, when you close, no one can open; come and proclaim liberty to the captives and set free the oppressed.

All **Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus!**

O Rising Sun, Splendour of eternal light and Sun of justice; come and give light to those who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

All **Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus!**

O King of the nations, the Ruler they long for, the Cornerstone binding all together; come and save the people you fashioned from the dust of the earth.

All **Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus!**

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, the Anointed of the nations and their Saviour; come and save us, O Lord our God.

All **Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus!**

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'

All **Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus!**

Lord, you are the one who is to come.

All **Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus!**

Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people who trust in your love.
By your coming, raise us to the joy of your kingdom,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand, if able.

For those who would like to, you are welcome to join hands as we sing or say the Peace.

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

or

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.
All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.
The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
The President takes the bread and wine.*

Preparation of the Table

All As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

All Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayers (Prayer A p.11, Prayer F p.14)

Eucharistic Prayer A

Please remain standing, if able.

All The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

From the 1st Sunday of Advent until 16th December:

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he
fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to
open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven

to proclaim your glory,

for ever praising you and *saying/singing:*

From 17th December until Christmas Eve:

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.
John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.
In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.
And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

All

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith:

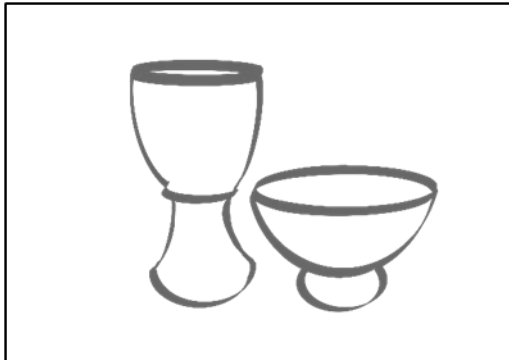
All **Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please turn to page 17 for The Lord's Prayer.



Eucharistic Prayer F

Please remain standing, if able.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

From the 1st Sunday of Advent until 16th December:

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he
fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to
open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and *saying/singing*:

From 17th December until Christmas Eve:

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

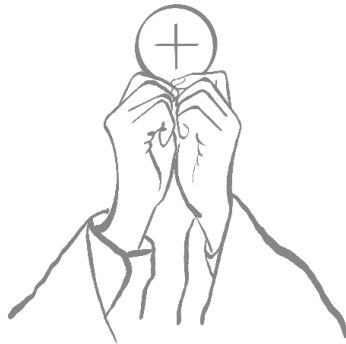
And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

All

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of
your love made perfect in our human weakness.
Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.



In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.



Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.
Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with St. Michael and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, in our own language, as our Saviour
taught us, so we pray:

All

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

or

Awaiting his coming in glory, in our own language, let us pray with
confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

As watchmen look for the morning
so do we look for you, O Christ.
Come with the dawning of the day
and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread,
for you are our God for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

Agnus Dei

All

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

or

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.
After receiving the bread and the wine, please respond "Amen"
or, if you would like a blessing, please place your hands across
your chest.*

Post Communion Hymn

Please stand, if able.

Post Communion Prayer

The President leads.

Prayer after Communion

All We have waited long for you.
Deep has been the darkness.

All We long for you to shine
right here among us where we are.

All We will not fear the shadows that surround us
if only you will come among us!

All We await the sound of a cry in the night,
the joy that follows pain,
the coming of hope.

Notices and Banns

The Dismissal

Blessing

All May Christ be our new beginning,
the hope and salvation of the world.
And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

Deacon As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord;
All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Recessional hymn verse

All sing **Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.**



Material from the following may be included in this service: *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* (2000), *Patterns for Worship* (1995), *New Patterns for Worship* (2002), *Times and Seasons* (2006), *The Promise of His Glory* (1991) all copyright © The Archbishops' Council; *Celtic Daily Prayer Book 1 & 2* (2015) © The Northumbria Community Trust. CCL No 908682.

